

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (Governor's Committee) is responsible for providing leadership to increase the number of people with disabilities in the California workforce. The Governor's Committee is also responsible for implementing California's Workforce Inclusion Act (Assembly Bill 925) which names and empowers the Governor's Committee to undertake activities to ensure improved employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Governor's Committee provides a forum through which key State departments, boards and councils, local service providers, business leaders and the disability community can collaborate to develop a comprehensive strategy that will result in an increased rate of employment for people with disabilities.

Background

The Governor's Committee was originally established in 1947 to assist disabled veterans to become employed. It was created as part of the national network of volunteers affiliated with the former President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and local community mayors' committees. Over time its purpose changed. Throughout the years, the Governor's Committee has promoted information to affect public attitudes regarding people with disabilities through its Media Access Office, Annual Employer Awards and its nationally recognized Youth Leadership Forum. In 2002, Assembly Bill 925 put the Governor's Committee in statute and expanded its membership to include mandated public and private partners.

What the Governor's Committee Does

With the passage of Assembly Bill 925 in September 2002, the Governor's Committee is now charged with advising the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and the Health and Human Services Agency on issues concerning people

with disabilities. Central to Assembly Bill 925 are the requirements to identify the employment barriers experienced by people with disabilities, to develop a statewide strategy for improved services, and to uphold State and federal accessibility provisions.

As part of its comprehensive strategy, the Governor's Committee endeavors to:

- Bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population.
- Support the goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.
- Ensure that State government is a model employer of people with disabilities.
- Support State coordination with, and participation in, benefits planning training and information dissemination projects supported by private foundations and federal grants.
- Work with public agencies and private organizations, when funding is available, to make grants available to counties and local workforce investment boards.
- Provide support to the State Workforce Investment Board and the local One-Stop Career Centers to achieve full compliance with State and federal laws.
- Promote information on employment supports and benefits, including the Ticket to Work program and health benefits to people with disabilities, consumers of public services, employers, service providers, and State and local agency staff.

How is the Governor's Committee Structured?

The Governor's Committee consists of members appointed by the Governor, plus a member appointed by the State Senate and the State Assembly. It receives staff support from the LWDA's Employment Development Department. The Governor's Committee is mandated to meet quarterly, in conjunction with the California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP). The public is encouraged to attend meetings.

Activities and Projects

The Governor's Committee works with a number of partners to create and support the following activities and projects:

- **California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF).** Since 1992, the Governor's Committee has held YLF — an intensive career awareness and leadership development program.
- **Affiliated Local Community Committees.** The Governor's Committee is part of a national volunteer network that includes the National Association of Governors' Committees and community mayors' committees. The office promotes and supports affiliated groups in nearly 30 California communities.
- **Disability Resources and Publications.** A wealth of information is available through the Governor's Committee to help educate employers about employing persons with disabilities.

For More Information

For further information or to become more involved, please visit the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Web page at www.edd.ca.gov/gcepdind.asp

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